**Dreamweaver Key Points**

**Chapter 1**

* File – new – select layout CSS (cascading style sheet); controls’ the appearance of your we page in a separate file; so all pages on your site share same layout;
* Create and Save Style Sheet file as…. And save.
* H1 – H6 Level Headings
* Footer
* Save as index.html, file name as opposed to name of page
* The web server automatically delivers the index.html from your site’s main folder
* Publishing web pages, using ftp.

**Chapter 2**

**Images and logos:**

* Pictures must be either gif, jpg or png file format.
* Create folder for images in site: right click new folder, change to images.
* Insert images
* Alternate text, text description of your image.
* Fixing space between logo and site name:
* Select picture, logo, properties and change H and V space.

**Chapter 3 Font and Cascading Style Sheets**

* CSS enables naming or labelling of text, setting “classes”.
* Select text; choose font; new CSS Rule; Selector Type; Selector Name.
* To change font class; click in block of text with that class; in CSS Styles, locate “font-family”; double click it; select new font.
* Changing text color: Use CSS Styles panel to invoke CSS Rule or CSS button in the Properties panel

**Chapter 4 Changing background of Website:**

To change background color: Page Properties, Background Color; select Apply to see how it looks

To change background of header, footer, side bar and main content, familiarise with the status bar.

Example of Dreamweaver's status bar

Tags in status bar are clickable buttons, each tag selects a different block

**Procedure for the header, footer and side bar, (left column)**

* + To change the background of the header, click the <div#header> word in the status bar.
  + To customize the background of the left column, or side bar, click the <div#sidebar1> word in the status bar.
  + To configure the background of the right column, or main content section, click the <div#mainContent> word in the status bar.

**Procedure for the Main Content, (Right column)**

The main content DIV block does not have any customized color settings so have to add these from scratch.

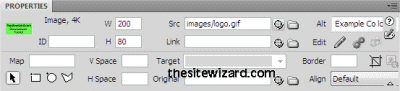
* With the "<div#mainContent>" button on the status bar selected, expand the CSS STYLES panel on the right side of Dreamweaver.
* Look for the line that says 'Properties for ".twoColLiqLtHdr #mainContent"'. Move your mouse to the separator line immediately above those words and drag it upwards until you can see the "Add property" blue link below. Click the link.
* In its place, a drop down box should appear. (If it doesn't, just click it again.) Click the drop down arrow key beside it to open the entire drop down list box.
* If you want to set a background colour, select the item "background-color". If you want to set a image for the backdrop, select the "background-image" item.

**Ch 5: Chapter 5: How to Make Pictures and Text into Clickable Links using Dreamweaver CS4**

An **absolute link** specifies the full address of a particular page or file, **http**://www.example.com/

**Relative links** will only work if the page doing the linking is also on the same website and in the same folder (directory) as "features.html".

## To to Make Your Logo into a Clickable Link to Your Home Page, open your index.html page and in the properties panel enter the link, either absolute or relative and Enter "0" (zero, without the quotes) into the "Border" field in the PROPERTIES panel; (otherwise a blue



## 2 How to Make Clickable Images that When Clicked Opens Up a Larger Image; a thumbnail picture to a larger image.

To get the thumbnail version, simply use a [photo or image editor](http://www.thefreecountry.com/utilities/imagephotoediting.shtml) to resize the original image to smaller dimensions, and save it under a separate filename, so that you now have two files: the original, unchanged large photo and the small resized image. Once you have both versions, do the following:

* Copy both files into your images folder Insert your small thumbnail version of the image into your existing web page
* Click the picture, and locate the "Link" field in the PROPERTIES panel below. Click the "Browse for File"; Double-click the images folder and locate the bigger image; Select it and click the "OK" button. Dreamweaver CS4 will insert a relative URL to the image into your "Link" field.

Notice that this relative URL is of the form "images/your-big-file-name.jpg" where "your-big-file-name.jpg" is the name of your large file. In particular, note that the slash separating the "images" folder and the filename is a forward slash

## How to Make a Text Link on Your Web Page

In the main content section (right column) of your web page, look for a piece of text that you want to make into a link; eg. if yours is a personal website you may want a link on your main page to a "hobbies.html" page;

* Select the word or words that you want to make into a link.
* In the PROPERTIES panel at the bottom of the Dreamweaver window, click the "HTML" button if it has not already been clicked. The panel should now show a "Link" field. Enter the address that you want to link to. For example, if you want to link to your hobbies page enter "hobbies.html" (without the quotation marks).

**Ch 6 Adding a navigation menu bar; Spry Framework**

Decide on your website structure or pages and write them down; eg. Contact or Feedback Form, Site Map, About Us, Price Lists, Privacy Policy, Feedback Form.

Use of Adobe Spry Framework to add interactive features to website.

1. To add the Menu to Side Bar
2. Click "Insert | Spry | Spry Menu Bar" from the menu. That is, click the "Insert" menu, followed by the "Spry" item in the menu that appears, and then the "Spry Menu Bar" item in the submenu that appears.
3. A dialog box, entitled "Spry Menu Bar", will appear and select the "Vertical" item and click "OK".
4. Dreamweaver CS4 inserts a default menu bar into your site column with some dummy content. Look at the PROPERTIES panel at the bottom of your Dreamweaver window (pictured below).



Notice that there are 3 list boxes in the middle of the panel. The first list box contains "Item 1", "Item 2", "Item 3" and "Item 4". These are the 4 buttons that you see in your web page. At present, "Item 1" is selected. Since "Item 1" is a button with submenus, the second listbox is populated with the items in the submenu, namely, "Item 1.1", "Item 1.2" and "Item 1.3".

1. Click "Item 1" and delete submenu, (unless you want it). Enter the title in the text field, Home, and Click the "Link" field, which currently contains a hash ("#") markPut the address of your website's main page in this "Link" field and enter relative URL, index.html.
2. Complete the information for the rest of your pages; add more items if you have more pages.
3. Click "File | Save". A dialog box called "Copy Dependent Files" will appear, asking you for permission to copy the files needed by the Spry navigation menu to your website folder. Click "OK". Dreamweaver will then create a new folder ("SpryAssets") in your website's directory that contains the support code for the menu.

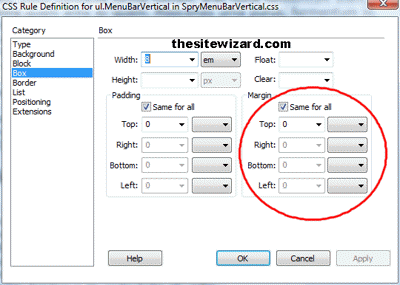
## How to Centre the Spry Framework Menu Bar Widget

The menu, as inserted by Dreamweaver CS4, is probably flushed to the left of your web page

Move your mouse over the menu bar in Dreamweaver CS4. The words "Spry Menu Bar: MenuBar1" will appear above the menu. Click those words. Alternatively, if you can't figure out what I'm talking about, just click anywhere in the navigation menu. Then click the <ul.MenuBarVertical#MenuBar1> tag in the status bar to select it. This has the same effect.

Look at the CSS STYLES panel on the right. If it is currently collapsed, expand it by double-clicking the "CSS STYLES" tab. Scroll up or down in the "Summary for selection" box and double-click the "width 8em" item.

A dialog box entitled "CSS Rule Definition for ul.MenuBarVertical in SpryMenuBarVertical.css" should appear. At the top of the dialog box, you should see the "Width: 8 em" item that you just clicked. Somewhere below that, on the right column, you should be able to see an entire section called "Margin" (circled in the picture below). Click the down arrow for the "Top" field (currently set at "0") and select "auto". Click the OK button.



## How to Change the Colours of the Spry Menu Bar Widget

In its default configuration, when your mouse hovers over one of your buttons in a web browser, the button turns blue, and the words on the button becomes white. To change this, click somewhere in one of the menu buttons in Dreamweaver, then select the "<a>" item on the status bar.

Double-click either the "background-color" line in the CSS STYLES panel or the "color" line. If you double-click "background-color", the CSS Rule Definition dialog box will open to the background section, allowing you to change the "Background-color" item (currently set to a particular shade of blue, or "#33C" if you're nerdy enough to know how to read numeric colour values). Clicking the square colour box will let you change it from the colour picker.

If you have double-clicked the "color" line instead, you'll be brought to the same CSS Rule Definition dialog box. However, it will open to the "Type" section. This will allow you to change the colour of the text when the mouse is hovering over the button. By default, the colour is set to white (or "#FFF" if you wish to know the numeric colour value for white). You can change this by looking for the "Color:" item in that dialog box. Just click the square box as usual.

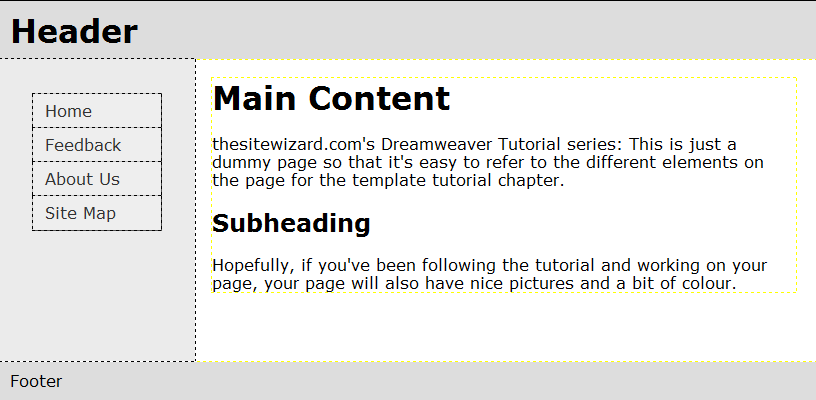
"Save All" saves not only the index.html file, but the other files touched by Dreamweaver to effect your changes.

**Ch 7, Creating a template and multiple pages based on the template.**

We want all the pages of our site to share the same basic design; we simply create a template for the site. Every time we need a new page for the site, we can just base our new page on that template, and only modify the parts that are different for that new page.

Dreamweaver also has the ability to automatically update all the pages based on a particular template every time you change that template.

To facilitate this auto-updating feature, Dreamweaver requires that you designate which portion of your template is part of the fixed design that you want on all pages, and which portion has content that will be different on every page. That way, when you modify the fixed design portion in your template, Dreamweaver will be able to update all the pages on your website to the new design.



1. Start up Dreamweaver CS4. Doubleclick the "index.html" file in the FILES panel to open it.
2. Click "File | Save As Template..." from the menu. This opens up the "Save As Template" dialog box. Click the "Save" button. When a message box appears, with the message "Update Links?", click "Yes". Dreamweaver then proceeds to create a "Templates" folder in your website's directory. If you look at the tab at the top of the Dreamweaver window, you will see that it has changed from "index.html" to "index.dwt". As of this moment, we will be modifying the template file, index.dwt, instead of your home page, index.html.
3. The template file that you're looking at has, by default, no editable regions. That is to say, if you create a new web page using this template as it stands, Dreamweaver won't let you change any part of the new web page, since it regards the entire page as part of the fixed design for your website.

What we need to do now is to tell Dreamweaver which portion of the page is editable.

1. Select the equivalent of the bold "Main Content" words (see picture above) on your web page. We want to make this title portion modifiable so that in the subpages on your website, you can replace it with the title of that page.

Click "Insert | Template Objects | Editable Region" from the menu. A dialog box, called "New Editable Region", will appear. The "Name" field will be pre-filled with some default name like "EditRegion3" or the like. Delete the default name and type "Page Title" instead. Click OK.

Notice that the "Main Content" words now have a caption "Page Title" above it.

1. Select all the paragraphs under the "Main Content" title If you have one or more "Subheading" subtitles and paragraphs below that, include them in your selection as well. With that entire region selected, click "Insert | Template Objects | Editable Region" from the menu again. When prompted for the name of this region, type "Page Content", and click "OK".

The section should now have a caption "Page Content".

1. There are only 3 sections left on your web page that are currently not marked as editable. The "Header", which should contain your website's name and logo, the side navigation menu bar and your "Footer", which probably currently contain your copyright notice.

You will probably not want to mark the "Header" portion as editable, since your site name will be the same no matter which page on your site your visitor happens to be on. Likewise, the navigation menu bar in your side panel should probably also be the same throughout your website.

Make the footer an editable region, click "Insert | Template Objects | Editable Region" from the menu, and enter something like "Copyright Year" into the "Name" field.

1. Save the template by clicking "File | Save" from the menu. You will probably get a verbose dialog box popping up, informing you that putting an editable region (like the "Page Title"), inside a block tag will prevent users from creating new blocks in the region. Click "OK".

## Associating Your Home Page with Your New Template

Before you go on to create a new page using the template, you will need to re-create your home page. We need to do this because your current home page is not regarded by Dreamweaver as being created from the template you just made. Since we want Dreamweaver to handle all the mundane and tedious job of updating all our pages every time we change the design of our site, we need to associate the page with the template.

To do this is overwrite your old index.html file with a new file created from the template.

1. Close all files by clicking "File | Close All".
2. Click "File | New". The dialog box that you saw when you first created your website in Chapter 1 appears. This time, however, look for the item "Page from Template" in the leftmost column, and click it. You should now see the name of your site in the second column, the "Site" column, and the template you made previously in the third column ("index"). A preview picture of your template appears in the window on the right.
3. Make sure that there is a tick in the checkbox "Update page when template changes" in the rightmost column. Then click the "Create" button.
4. A new unnamed web page, based on your template this time, will appear. This page should be identical to your index.html file, since you did not make any changes to your index.html when you created the template. (All you did was to mark certain parts of the page as "editable".)

Click "File | Save As..." from the menu. In the "Save As" dialog box that appears, click the "index.html" file, followed by the "Save" button. Dreamweaver will issue a warning that the file already exists, and asks you whether you want to overwrite the file. Click "Yes".

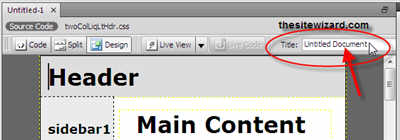
With this step, you have replaced your old "index.html" with a new "index.html" created from your template. As far as your visitors are concerned, your home page will not look any different in a web browser. However, internally, Dreamweaver will have inserted certain invisible markers so that it will be able to update the page whenever you make a design change in your template.

## How to Make a New Page from Your Own Template in Dreamweaver CS4

We will now create the other pages for your website:

Click "File | New..." again and select "Page from Template" if it has not already been preselected for you. Then click "Create".

1. Look at the "Title:" field of the Dreamweaver window, just above your web page (see the picture below, copied from chapter 1, if you've forgotten where to find it).



Replace whatever text you have in that field with the name of your other page.

1. Change the text in the "Page Title" editable region to "your page title".
2. Replace the text and pictures in your "Page Content" section with your data.
3. Create your other pages and complete the same process.
4. Remember to Click "File | Save As..." and type "the name of your new file" Click the "Save" button.

## How to Modify Your Template in Dreamweaver CS4

If at some future point in time, you feel the urge to [redesign your website](http://www.thesitewizard.com/webdesign/important-site-redesign-tips.shtml), you will need to do it by loading your template file and modifying it from there. Let's briefly go through the steps for this, so that when you need to do it, you will know how to.

1. Close all the files that are currently open in Dreamweaver. To do this, click "File | Close All" from the menu.
2. In your FILES panel on the right side of Dreamweaver, click the "+" (plus) box beside the "Templates" folder to expand it. You should see the "index.dwt" file that you created earlier.
3. Doubleclick "index.dwt". Dreamweaver will now open your template.
4. Modify the template the normal way that you would any web page.
5. When you click "File | Save", Dreamweaver will pop up the same message box you encountered earlier, about placing the editable region "Page Title" inside a block tag. Just click "OK".
6. Since you have made a change to your template that affects multiple pages on your site, Dreamweaver will now show a new dialog box entitled "Update Template Files". Here's where the beauty of the template tools come into play. When you save a modified template, Dreamweaver searches through all the files created from that template and offers to update all of them.

The dialog box should list the files you have created; Click the "Update" button.

1. Another dialog box, "Update Pages", will appear. Click the "Close" button.
2. If you want to be sure that Dreamweaver has done its job properly, doubleclick any of your web pages in the FILES panel to open them in Dreamweaver. They should all reflect the change you made.